

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 10 and 20 are pending in the present application. By the above amendments, claims 11 – 19 and 21 – 24 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of these claims in all manners allowed by law, including through the filing of continuing applications, and through enforcement of the remaining claims.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 18, 19, 20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over various combinations of art, but indicated *inter alia* that claims 21 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of base claims 1 and 20, respectively. This indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

By the above amendments, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 21, which has accordingly been cancelled. Claim 20 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 24, which has accordingly been cancelled. Claims 2 – 10 depend from claim 1, which is now in condition for allowance. Claims 11 – 19, 22, and 23 have also been cancelled.

Accordingly, all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that the above amendments do *not* correspond to those proposed during the interview of December 6, 2007. The proposed amendments of December 6, 2007, which were never formally presented for entry in the application, are omitted by the Applicants in this response without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the allowed claims in all manners allowed by law.

CONCLUSION

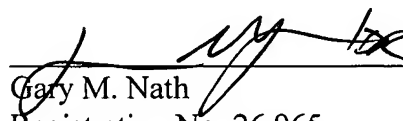
In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant

respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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